

Welcome to Year 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a lovely summer holiday and that your children are happy to be back at school. It is great to see them all again. We are really looking forward to an exciting (and very busy!) term with our classes.

Topics

Autumn Term 1 - Which Journeys Have Really Made A Difference?

Autumn Term 2 - How Has One Event Affected Our Lives Today?

Spring Term 1 - Could You Live In India?

Spring Term 2 - How Do Animals Survive?

Summer Term 1 - Are Animals Or Plants More Important?

Summer Term 2 - Is It Better To Live At The Seaside?

Reading

Children in Year 2 will continue to read to their class teacher or teaching assistant frequently and they will also take part in group reading sessions during which we teach specific reading skills and, very importantly, extend the children's comprehension skills. You can support us at home not only by listening to your child read, but by asking questions about the text they have read. Reading with an adult is vital at this stage, even if it is only a few pages every night. The books will be checked daily so please remember to write a comment in your child's diary in order for the book to be changed.

Over the next few weeks we will also be introducing a 'Talk About Book'. This will be chosen by your child on a Friday and over the following week we would like them to read it with you at home. We have deliberately selected books that are likely to be beyond their current reading level as we would like to expose them to more challenging texts in order to extend their vocabulary and variety of genres. Inside most of the books is a 'Talk About...' card with suggestions of questions for you to discuss. Please ensure that these are returned to school every Friday.

In addition, in school we are using **epic!** books. This is an online library that has a huge range of books and educational videos and provides another opportunity for reading. Until recently they were offering two hours of home access per day and they have changed it to one book per day, but we are having problems with this at the moment. If we manage to rectify this, we will let you know.



Homework

In Year 2 homework will be set every Friday and should be handed in by the following Wednesday, please. Our homework activities are intended to reinforce what they children have been working on throughout the week. We will assign the tasks on Seesaw each week, but we realise that online learning can be challenging for some families. If you would like a paper copy of the tasks, please let your child's class teacher know. Similarly, if you have any other difficulties with your child completing homework, we are happy to support you in any way we can.



Please keep encouraging your child to use the Numbots app regularly. We have noticed a marked improvement since it was introduced. After the October half term break, once we have covered multiplication as part of our Maths lessons and the children are used to using the Times Tables Rock Stars app in school, we will encourage them to use it at home too. We would rather that they just used the Numbots app to begin with as this is one that they are very familiar with. It might seem a long way off, but when they are in Year 4 they will have a statutory times tables test that is very similar to this app.

Log-ins

Your child should have their log-in details for Numbots, TTRS, Epic books and the Purple Mash website in the front of their reading diaries.

Uniform

We appreciate how expensive uniform can be and how frustrating it is when items go missing. If each item is named we can return them quickly. As it is getting colder, please ensure that your child has a coat.

PE Kits

This term we have outdoor PE on Wednesdays and Dance on Fridays. Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school with all items NAMED as soon as possible as we cannot let the children participate without the appropriate footwear and clothing. Warmer clothes during the winter months will be essential.

Water bottles

Drinking water have been proven to aid brain activity so we will always encourage this throughout the day. Please ensure your child has a NAMED water bottle in school every day. We will send these home to be washed every afternoon. Unfortunately there are few children who do not have one in school at the moment.

This term

As you know, this term's topic is based on 'journeys' and in our Talk for Reading and Talk for Writing sessions and two stories ('The Umbrella' and 'Meerkat Mail') that we will be studying during our Literacy lessons. Alongside this our Geography focus will be on the Earth, oceans, continents and climates and we will move on to learning about historical figures who have made famous journeys, such as Christopher Columbus and Grace Darling.

Friday Mornings

The class teachers are in school on Friday mornings, but you may be greeted at the door by Mrs Savage, Mrs Oliver or Mrs Huesken as they teach the children Dance, RE and Music or any of our teaching assistants.

End of Year Assessments (SATs)

During the summer term, your child will be taking part in statutory assessment tests in grammar, punctuation and spelling, reading and mathematics. These will take place throughout May and will be administered in a very calm and relaxed environment. Often children do not realise they are actually doing a test! The writing will be based on the pieces of independent work that they do across the year.

Contact

As mornings can be a little busy, home-time is a good opportunity for you to speak to your child's class teacher. However, we appreciate that this is not always possible and email is often a more effective way of getting a message to us or asking a question. We are not always able to read them and reply straight away, but will get back to you as soon as we can. This will probably be the next school day.

Mrs Warrener - lyndsey.warrener@william-alvey.lincs.sch.uk

Mrs Clifford - jenny.clifford@william-alvey.lincs.sch.uk

Mrs Mitton-Rooke - heidi.mitton@william-alvey.lincs.sch.uk

Alternatively, please leave a message at the school office. If your child is ill, you **MUST** notify the school office on the day, please.

Medication

If your child is required to have medication during school hours, please leave it at the school office and sign the required forms.

We look forward to meeting you properly later on in the term when we are planning to hold Parents Evenings once again. Mr Farrington will notify you of the dates.

Mrs Warrener, Mrs Clifford and Mrs Mitton-Rooke